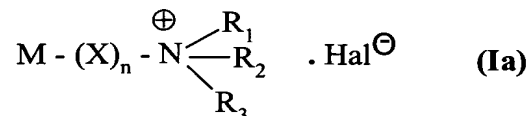


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

NEW QUATERNARY AMMONIUM COMPOUNDS

A compound of formula corresponding to either formula (Ia) or (Ib) :



wherein :

M represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage,

R₁, R₂ and R₃ represent alkyl,

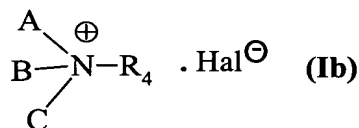
or R₁, R₂ and R₃, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, form a heterocycle,

X represents a (C₁-C₆)alkylene chain in which one or more -CH₂- groups are optionally replaced by sulphur, oxygen, or -NR-, -CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO₂-, -SO- or -SO₂-,

n represents 0 or 1,

Hal represents halogen,

or,



R₄ represents alkyl,

Hal represents halogen,

$\begin{matrix} A \\ B \\ C \end{matrix} - N$ represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage, wherein the nitrogen atom

may optionally be included in a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic system, or included in a double bond.